

As a sequel to the conversation which I had with Your Excellency on 4 June, I am pleased to inform you that I have now received instructions from Her Majesty's Government to propose that the discussions between Britain and Argentina about the future of the Falkland Islands should be resumed on the basis of the safeguards and guarantees to be extended to the Islanders in the hypothetical event of a condominium. These discussions would be without prejudice to the respective positions of the United Kingdom and the Argentine Governments with regard to territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

I am to explain that the main aim of Her Majesty's Government in entering into negotiations on the basis of a condominium would be to settle the dispute about sovereignty by accepting Argentine co-sovereignty over the Islands, and that the end product might be a treaty resolving the Anglo-Argentine dispute and creating a favourable atmosphere in which the Islanders could develop according to their interests. For the duration of the Treaty the two parties would accept shared sovereignty over the Islands. The co-domini would be Her Majesty The Queen and His Excellency the President of the Argentine Nation.

There are several forms which a condominium might take but the basic elements might include the following:

- 1) The British and Argentine flags would fly side by side and the official languages would be English and Spanish;
- 2) All 'belongers' of the Islands would possess dual nationality;
- 3) Existing colony passports would be replaced by travel documents issued by the co-domini;



- 4) The present constitution, administration and legal system would have to be adapted to the needs of a condominium. The Governor might be appointed alternately by The Queen and the President of Argentina;
- 5) Further constitutional changes would require the agreement of the co-domini.

I also have to inform you that a Joint Session of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Islands have informed the Governor that they had no objection to talks being held with the Argentine Government on the safeguards and guarantees required in a condominium. However, I am to state that Her Majesty's Government would feel free to invite representatives of the Islands to form part of the British delegation, and that before final agreement the Islanders would have to be formally consulted and their acceptance sought by some form of popular representation.

On this basis, Her Majesty's Government propose that, if the Argentine Government agree, official or preliminary official talks should take place in Buenos Aires as soon as possible.